

MARVEL

#21

SOULE • SUDŽUKA • MILLA

DAREDEVIL



WHEN MATT MURDOCK WAS A KID, HE LOST HIS SIGHT IN AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING A TRUCK CARRYING RADIOACTIVE CHEMICALS. THOUGH HE COULD NO LONGER SEE, THE CHEMICALS HEIGHTENED MURDOCK'S OTHER SENSES AND IMBUED HIM WITH AN AMAZING 360-RADAR SENSE. NOW MATT USES HIS ABILITIES TO FIGHT FOR HIS CITY. HE IS THE *MAN WITHOUT FEAR*. HE IS...

DAREDEVIL

AFTER DAREDEVIL SAVED THE PURPLE CHILDREN FROM BEING USED IN A PLANET-ALTERING SCHEME RUN BY THEIR FATHER, ZEBEDIAH KILLGRAVE, THE KIDS REPAID THEIR HERO BY USING THEIR MIND-INFLUENCING POWERS TO MAKE THE WORLD FORGET DAREDEVIL'S TRUE IDENTITY IS MATT MURDOCK. SHOCKED BY THEIR ACTIONS, BUT NOT WANTING TO SQUANDER THIS FRESH START, MATT RETURNED TO NEW YORK, WAS READMITTED TO THE BAR, AND IS TAKING THE FIRST STEPS TOWARDS A PLAN THAT WILL CHANGE EVERYTHING...

CHARLES SOULE
WRITER

GORAN SUDŽUKA
ARTIST

MATT MILLA
COLOR ARTIST

VC's CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER
DAN PANOSIAN COVER ARTIST
HUMBERTO RAMOS & EDGAR DELGADO
MARY JANE VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

MARK BASSO ASSOC. EDITOR
MARK PANICCIA EDITOR
AXEL ALONSO EDITOR IN CHIEF
JOE QUESADA CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
DAN BUCKLEY PRESIDENT
ALAN FINE EXEC. PRODUCER

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EAST VILLAGE.
FIFTEEN MINUTES
TO MIDNIGHT.

SUPREME

PART 1

This is it. This is where it starts. The dream I've been working toward for most of my life.

The end of crime in New York City.

Unless it all falls apart because of this damn garbage truck.

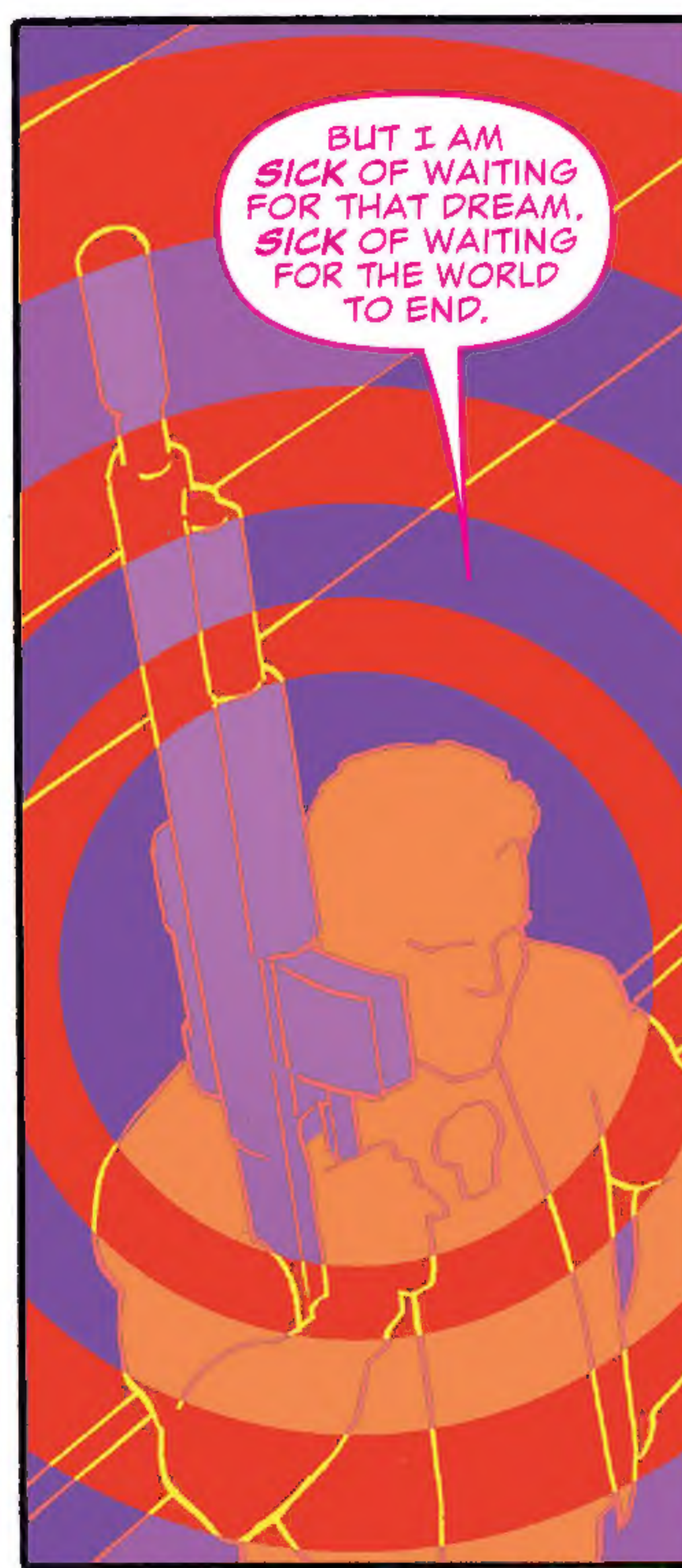
With senses like mine, this city is a thousand different degrees of loud. A scent can be a jackhammer.

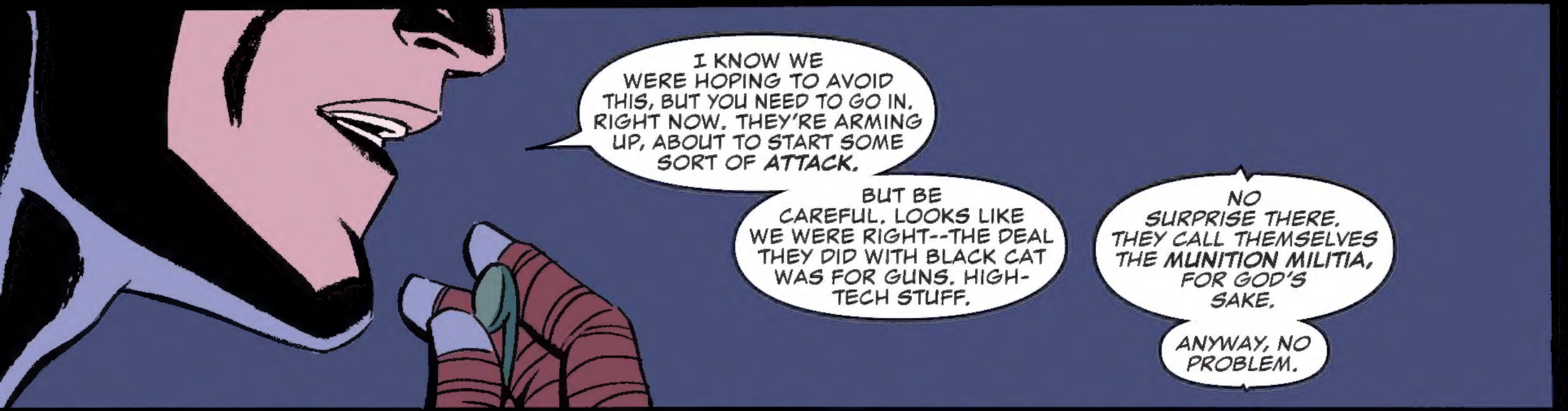
And it doesn't get much louder than a New York City garbage truck in the summer. Fuzzes out everything else--hearing, radar sense, all of it.

Man. *Finally.*

There it goes.

Okay. Let's see what we can see.





I KNOW WE WERE HOPING TO AVOID THIS, BUT YOU NEED TO GO IN, RIGHT NOW. THEY'RE ARMING UP, ABOUT TO START SOME SORT OF ATTACK.

BUT BE CAREFUL. LOOKS LIKE WE WERE RIGHT--THE DEAL THEY DID WITH BLACK CAT WAS FOR GUNS. HIGH-TECH STUFF.

NO SURPRISE THERE. THEY CALL THEMSELVES THE MUNITION MILITIA, FOR GOD'S SAKE.

ANYWAY, NO PROBLEM.



LAST THING I'M WORRIED ABOUT ARE A BUNCH OF FOOLS WITH GUNS. YOU KNOW ME, MAN.

I'M LUKE CAGE.

I'M BULLETPROOF.

KRACK



WHA--?



UH...HEY
THERE, THOSE
ARE SOME...PRETTY
LARGE WEAPONS
YOU FOLKS HAVE
THERE.



YEAH.



WE
KNOW.



Ah, damn.
Damn.



LUKE! YOU
OKAY?

NO, MAN!
WHAT KIND OF
BULLETS ARE
THESE PUNKS
USING?

DIDN'T GO
THROUGH, BUT
THAT STUFF
HURT!



HE'S STILL
ALIVE. HOW
IS HE STILL
ALIVE?

I KNOW THIS
GUY, BLACK POWDER.
THAT'S LUKE CAGE.
HE'S GOT REALLY HARD
SKIN, SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.

HIS SKIN
MIGHT BE TOUGH,
STEELJACKET.

LET'S SEE
ABOUT HIS
EYES.



GETTING
INTENSE DOWN
HERE. LITTLE HELP
MIGHT BE
NICE.

I...want to, but
I can't. I can't
lay a finger on
these guys.

That's not
the plan.

OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

EARLIER.

THIS IS
QUITE A SCHEME
YOU'RE PRESENTING
HERE, MR.
MURDOCK.

IT'LL WORK,
MR. HOCHBERG.
AND WHEN IT
DOES...

PERHAPS. BUT IF *FAILS*, IT HAS THE
POTENTIAL TO CLOSE THE DOOR ON
THE SORTS OF ACTIVITIES YOUR
FRIEND DAREDEVIL LIKES
TO PURSUE.

HIS POSITION IN THIS
CITY, ALONG WITH ALL THE
OTHER COSTUMED VIGILANTES,
SPIDER-MAN AND SUCH--IT'S
LEGALLY PRECARIOUS.
EVERYONE KNOWS IT.

NO ONE
LOOKS AT IT TOO
CLOSELY, BECAUSE FOR
EVERY COSTUMED HERO,
THERE'S ALSO A COSTUMED
MANIAC THAT ONLY THE
HERO CAN EFFECTIVELY
STOP.

NO ONE
WANTS TO LOOK
TOO CLOSELY. THE
SYSTEM WORKS...
BARELY.

...IT'LL
CHANGE
EVERYTHING.

BUT THIS...
YOUR PLAN...IT
SHINES A *SPOTLIGHT*. IT
FORCES THE AUTHORITIES TO
EXAMINE THE RELATIONSHIP
OF THE HEROES TO
THE ACTUAL LEGAL
SYSTEM.

ARE YOU
SURE DAREDEVIL
AND HIS FRIENDS
WANT THAT?

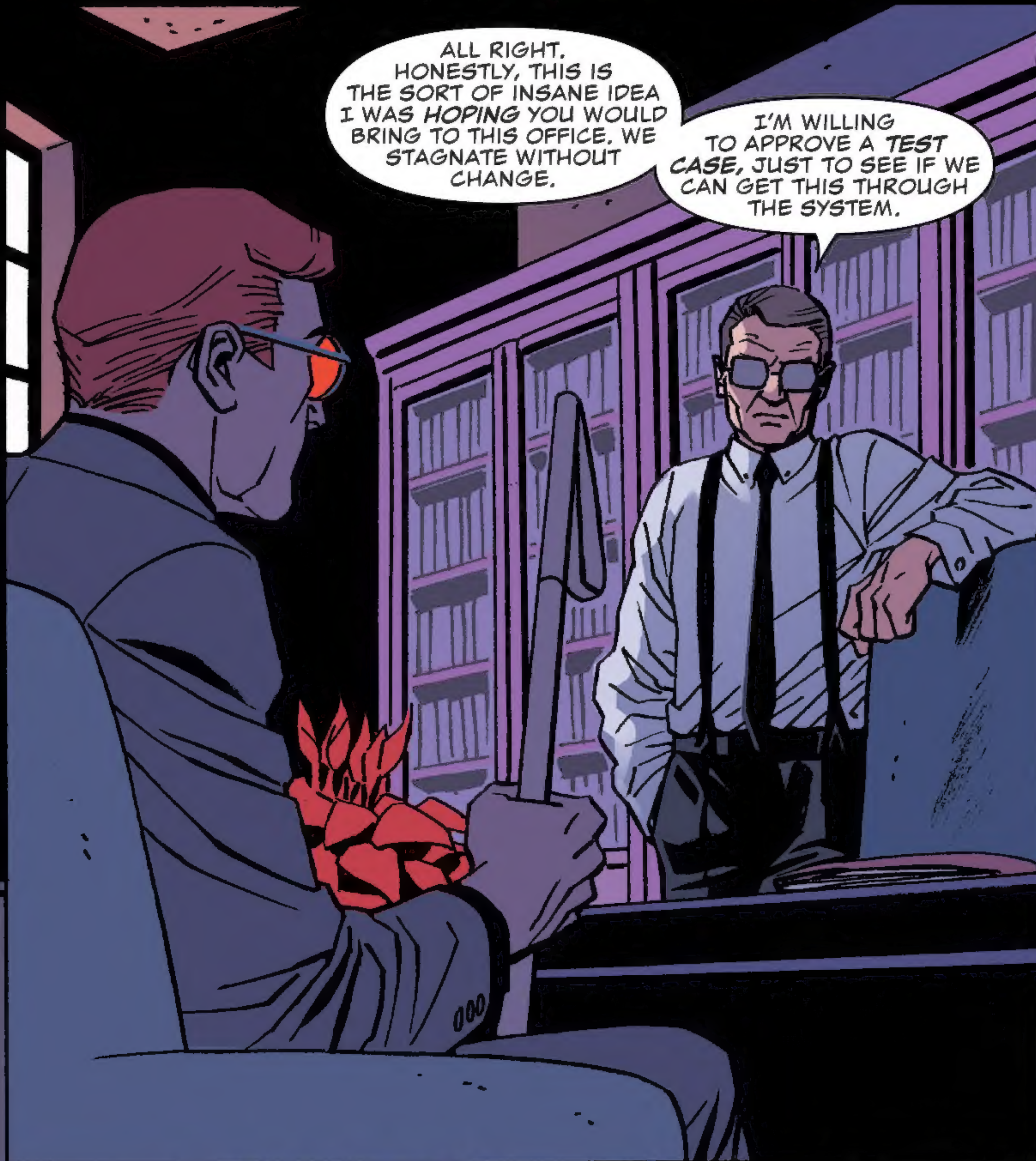


YES. THE
POTENTIAL UPSIDE IS
TOO GREAT.

EVEN IF IT
FAILS...WELL, THEY'VE
WEATHERED LEGAL CHALLENGES
TO THEIR ACTIVITIES BEFORE.
THE S.H.R.A.,* THINGS
LIKE THAT.

I'VE
DISCUSSED THE
RELEVANT ISSUES
WITH DAREDEVIL.
HE WANTS TO
PROCEED.

*SUPERHUMAN
REGISTRATION ACT.



ALL RIGHT.
HONESTLY, THIS IS
THE SORT OF INSANE IDEA
I WAS *HOPING* YOU WOULD
BRING TO THIS OFFICE. WE
STAGNATE WITHOUT
CHANGE.

I'M WILLING
TO APPROVE A *TEST*
CASE, JUST TO SEE IF WE
CAN GET THIS THROUGH
THE SYSTEM.

BUT MAKE SURE THE CASE IS IRONCLAD
EVEN *WITHOUT* DAREDEVIL, EVEN IF IT
MEANS A LESSER CHARGE. JUST IN
CASE THE INSANE PART
FALLS THROUGH.



UNDERSTOOD.



TAKE YOUR
FILE BACK. AT YOUR
12 O'CLOCK.

I DON'T
WANT IT ANYWHERE
NEAR MY DESK.

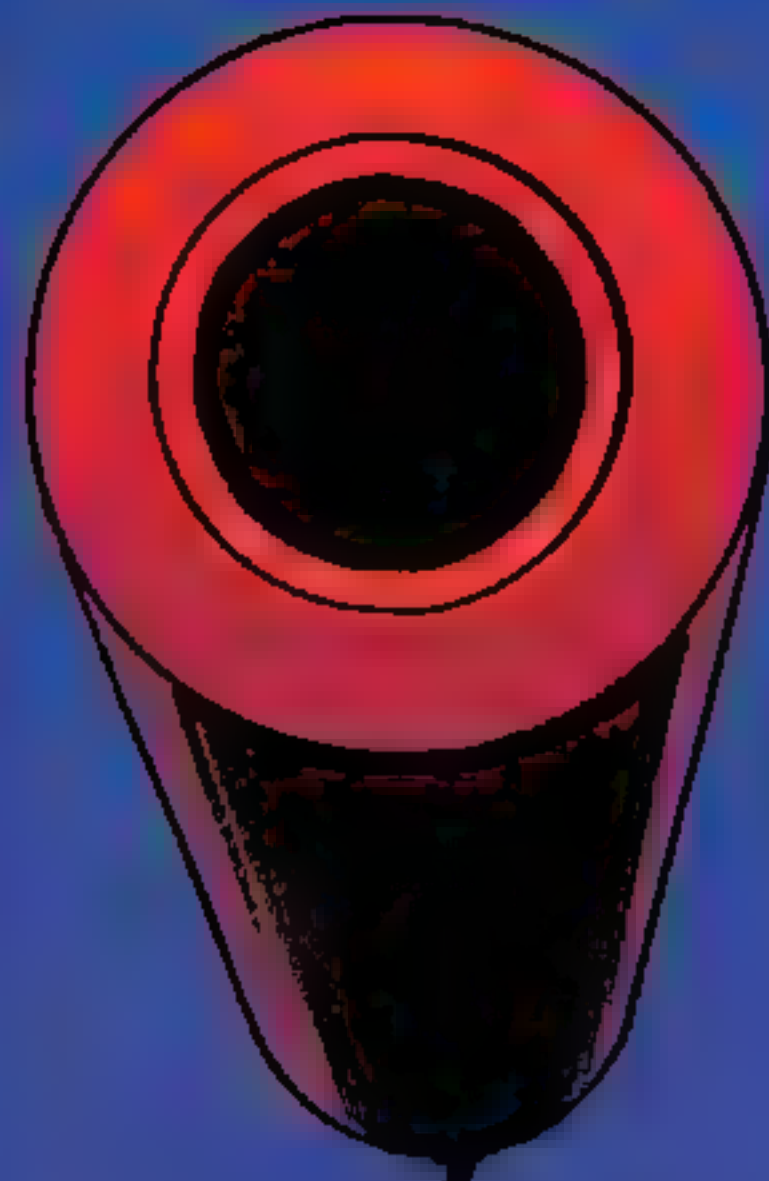


I don't care
what I told
Hochberg.

I can't just
watch them
kill Luke!

BRING IT
ON, GARBAGE
PEOPLE.

BRING
IT ON!



I can take them
all, even *with*
the guns.



Just think through
the moves. Anticipate.
Take them down hard,
before they have a
chance to shoot.

We're in the middle
of the Village. People
all around us. Any
stray bullet could
be *deadly*.

Do all that,
fast, precise...

...without laying
a finger on them.

DAREDEVIL!

YEAH, TRACER.
DAREDEVIL. BUT
DON'T WORRY.

All by myself?

Impossible.

HE AIN'T
BULLETPROOF.

Fortunately...

...I've got help.

Echo. Maya Lopez. She can duplicate anything she sees, perfectly.

She's a hell of a fighter in her own right, but we worked this out ahead of time. She's letting me lead.

This way, I'm fighting... I'm just not touching anyone.

She's throwing the punches, but they're my moves.

Well, not *exactly* how I'd do it. I'm adjusting a little, taking into account the differences between our body types, muscle mass.

...it's exhilarating.

It's like...

Honestly...

...it's like we're dancing.

It's...been a long time.

Too long, maybe.

Because I just missed a step.

LADY, YOU'RE DEAD.



NOPE.



STEELJACKET, HUH?

MAYBE NEXT TIME GET A JACKET FOR YOUR FACE.

That's it. They're all down.

And I didn't touch a single one of them.



THAT WAS NICE. GOOD TO FINALLY WORK WITH YOU, ECHO. HEARD YOU WERE TOUGH, NOW I KNOW YOU'RE TOUGH.

LUKE JUST THANKED YOU. SAID YOU'RE AS GOOD AS HE'S HEARD.

HEH. APPRECIATE THAT, MR. CAGE. HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT YOU--BUT I LIKED WHAT I SAW.

WAIT... WHAT?

SHE'S DEAF, LUKE. RELAX.



OKAY. YOU REALLY THOUGHT YOU'D START THE END OF THE WORLD BY YOURSELVES? JUST THE FOUR OF YOU?

I'M ALL FOR AMBITION, BUT AT A CERTAIN POINT IT CROSSES THE LINE INTO DELUSION.

NO. NOT JUST THE FOUR OF US.

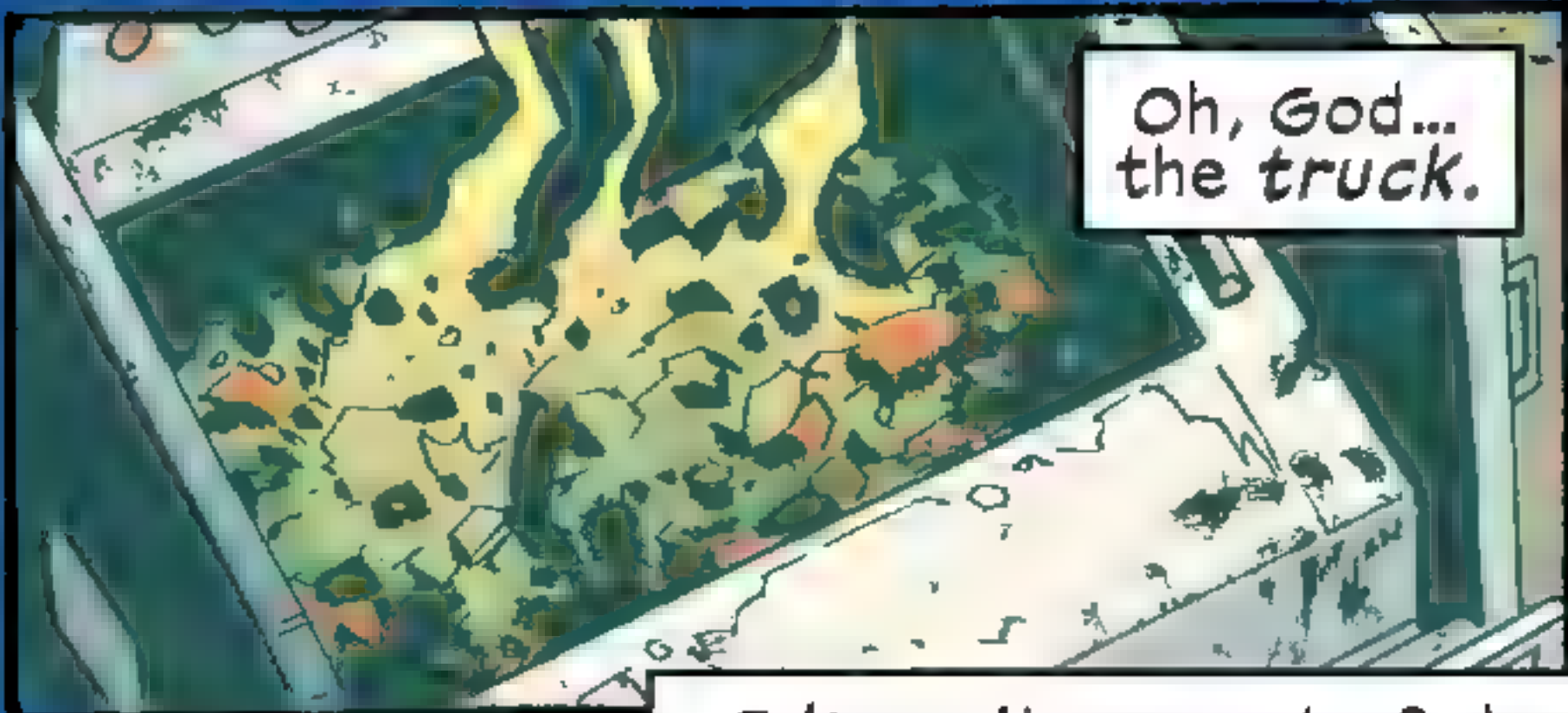
YOU DIDN'T STOP NOTHIN'. WE WERE JUST GONNA BE THE DIVERSION. BRING THE COPS OUR WAY TO MAKE SURE NOBODY GOT TOO CURIOUS ACROSS TOWN.

BIG BANG'S STILL COMIN', DAREDEVIL.





BIG BANG'S STILL COMIN'!



Oh, God... the truck.

I *knew* it was out of place. Sanitation trucks don't start their runs at *midnight*.

I was so focused on my big *plan* that I didn't stop to think about what was right in front of me.

WHAT TIME IS IT?

FIVE MINUTES OF 12.

NOT GOOD.




COME ON! WE CAN STOP THIS!

YES, WE DO.

HOW? WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO GO!



JUST FOLLOW YOUR NOSE.



Never, ever
thought I'd
say this...

...but thank
God for summer
garbage.

Come on, come on...it's only been
ten minutes since the truck pulled
away from the hideout. Where *is* it?

I don't care if it is the
middle of the night. This
is Manhattan. Nothing as
big as a garbage truck's
getting far in city traffic.

Where...
where...

**THREE MINUTES
TO MIDNIGHT.**

There.

Right outside
City Hall.

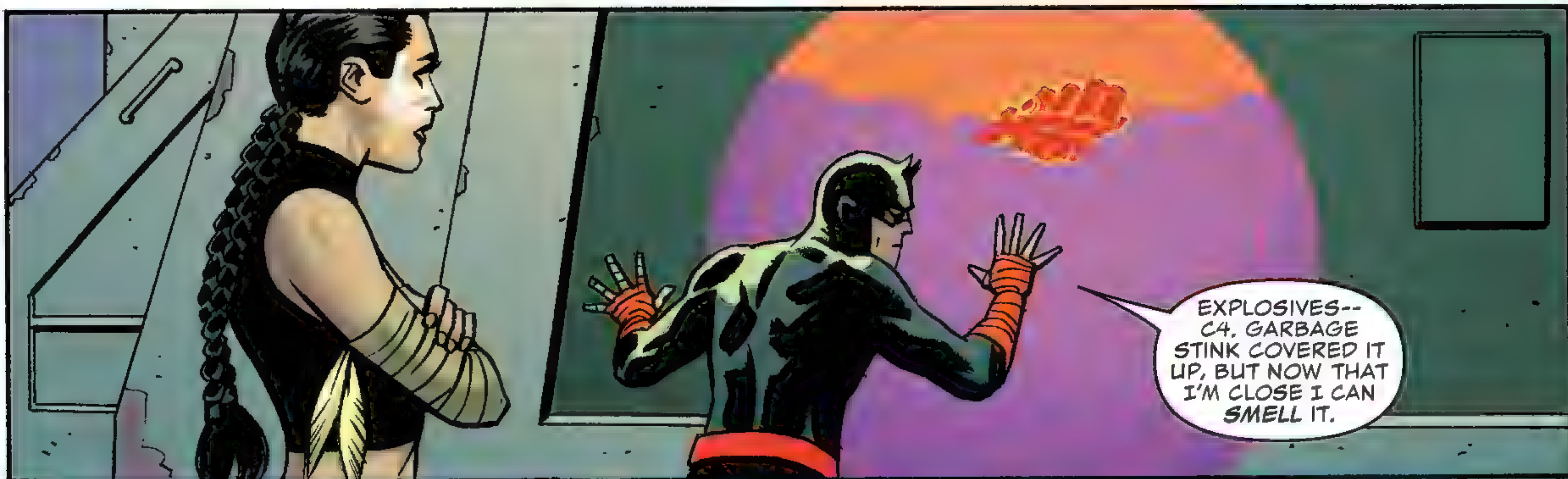


AH, MAN,
SLUG, CUTTING
IT A LITTLE CLOSE,
AIN'TCHA? STUPID
CITY TRAFFIC.



LOOKS
LIKE YOU'RE IN
A HURRY, FRIEND.
WHY'S THAT?

NO, COME
ON--I GOTTA
GET OUT OF HERE,
THERE'S NO
TIME!

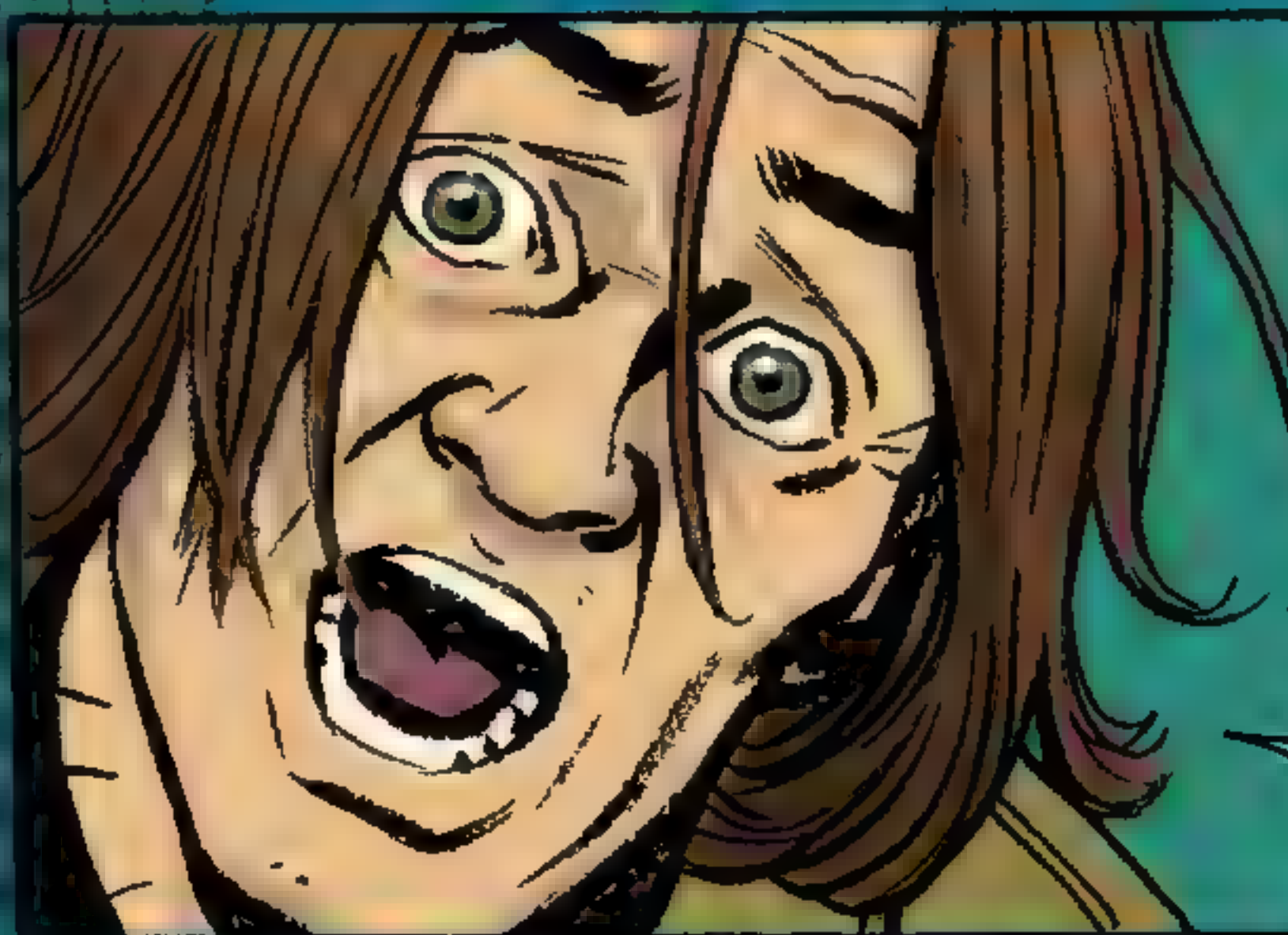


EXPLOSIVES--
C4. GARBAGE
STINK COVERED IT
UP, BUT NOW THAT
I'M CLOSE I CAN
SMELL IT.



NO! NO!
WE ALL GOTTA
RUN!

YOU'RE STAYING
RIGHT HERE. SEEMS
LIKE THE SMART PLAY
WOULD BE TO SHUT
OFF THE BOMB.



DON'T YOU
GET IT, YOU IDIOT?
I CAN'T!

AMMO WIRED
IT TO GO OFF AT
MIDNIGHT! LIKE HIS
GRAND STATEMENT
OR SOMETHING,
I DUNNO.

I
CAN'T TURN
IT OFF! I DON'T
EVEN KNOW
HOW!

ONE MINUTE TO MIDNIGHT.



SO,
WHO'S GOT
AN IDEA?

I DO.
LUKE, GET IN
THE TRUCK.

THAT'S
THE ONE.

THE TRUCK
THAT'S ALSO A
BOMB?

PHENOMENAL.



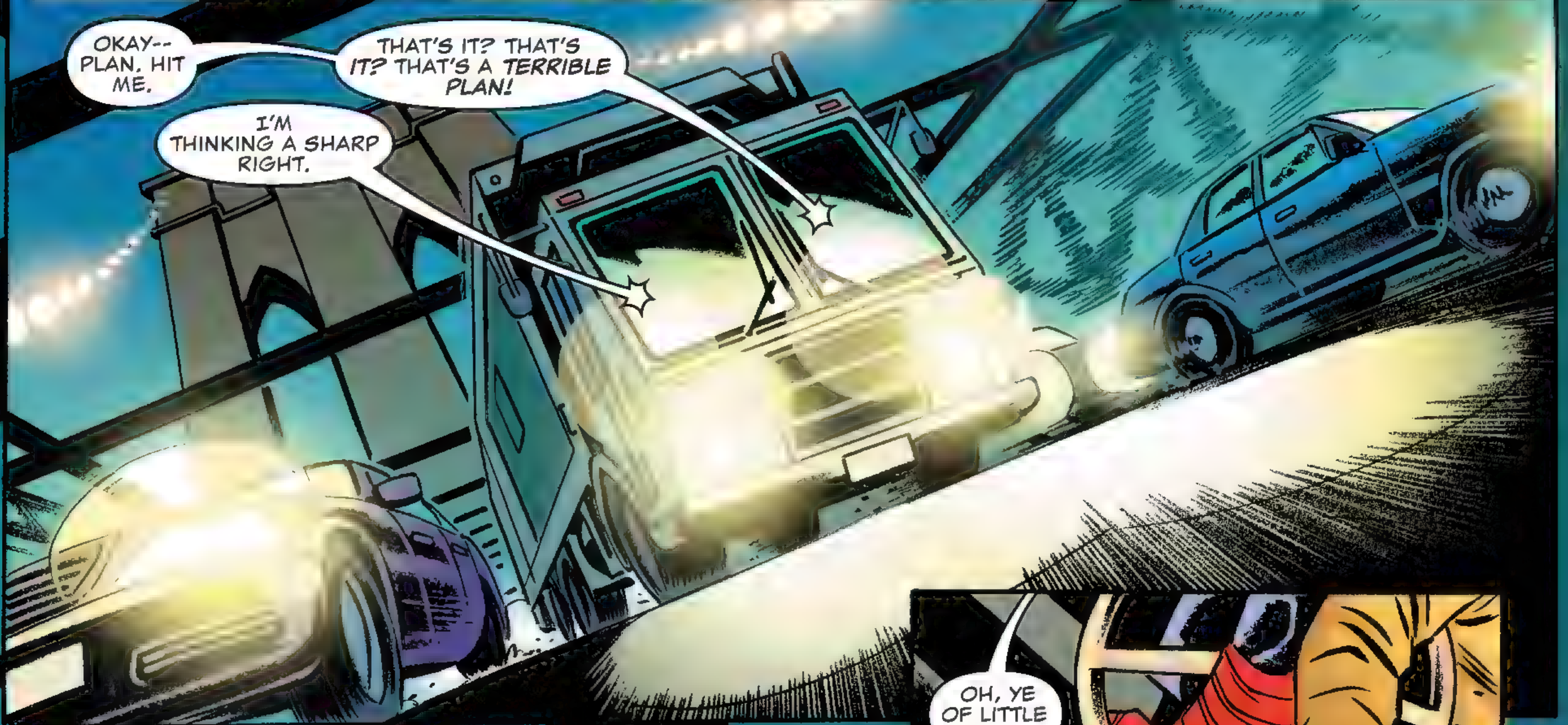
GET ON THE BRIDGE!

THINK SO.

TRYING, YOU HAVE A PLAN, RIGHT?

WE GOT ENOUGH TIME?

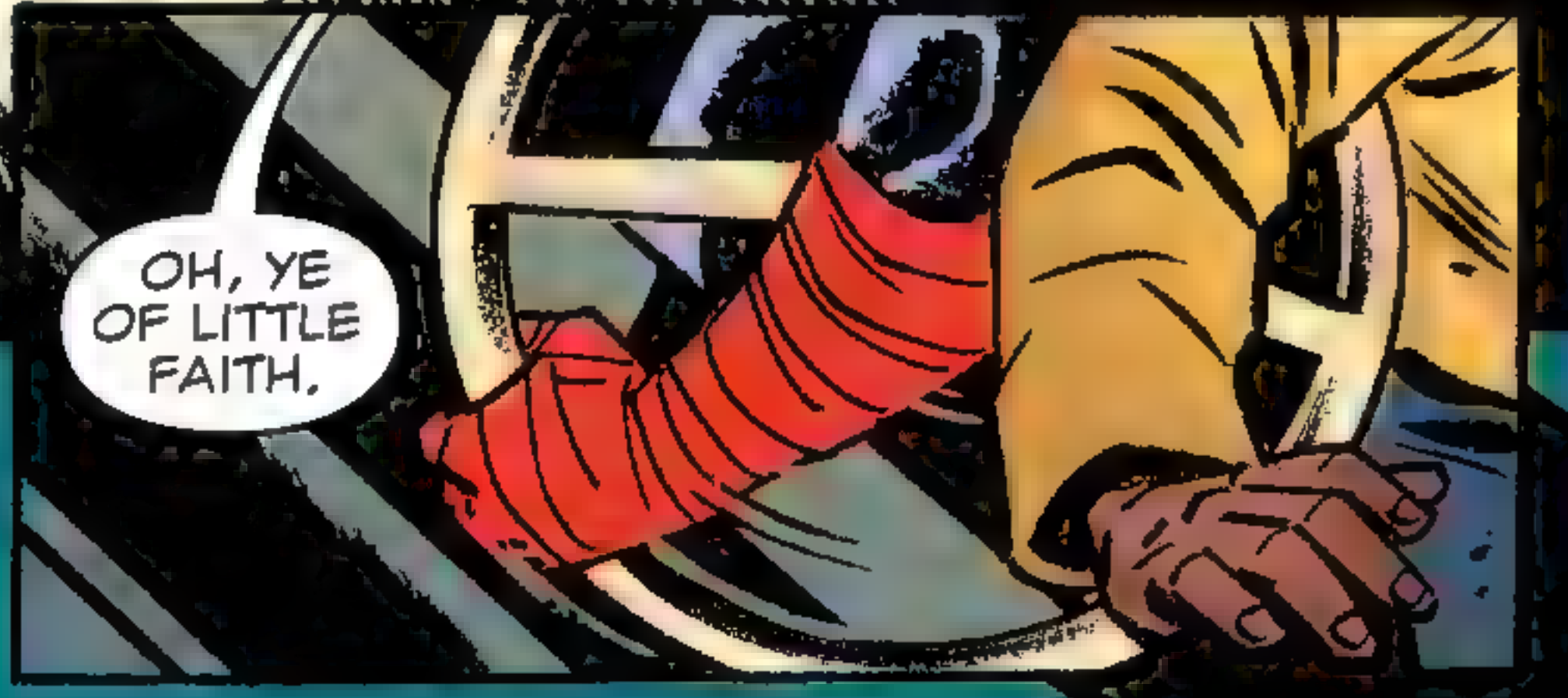
... MAYBE.



OKAY-- PLAN, HIT ME.

THAT'S IT? THAT'S IT? THAT'S A TERRIBLE PLAN!

I'M THINKING A SHARP RIGHT.

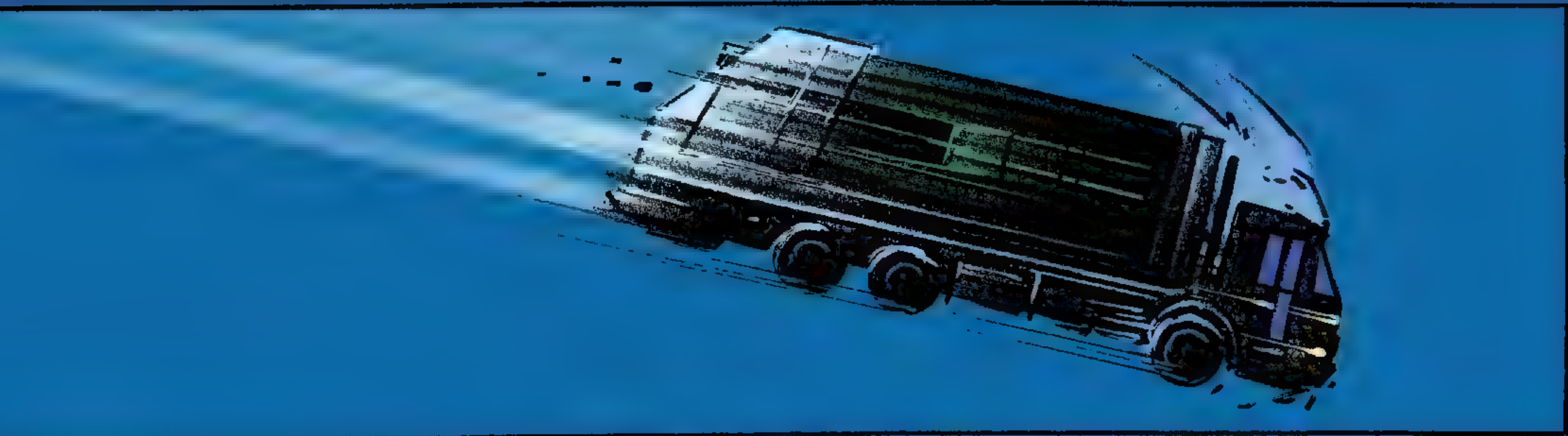


OH, YE OF LITTLE FAITH.



SCREE

KRRSH



LATER.

WHAT HAPPENED TO A QUIET SURVEILLANCE MISSION?

HONESTLY, WE WERE LUCKY. AMMO'S GANG WAS ABOUT TO EXECUTE A MAJOR TERRORIST ATTACK, AND NO ONE HAD ANY IDEA.

IF DAREDEVIL HADN'T BEEN THERE TO STOP IT, HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED.

YES, BUT HE ALSO LET AMMO AND THREE OF HIS TEAM ESCAPE.

WELL, YES. DAREDEVIL AND HIS FRIENDS DID EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO SET THEM UP FOR THE POLICE TO BRING IN, BUT THEY SLIPPED AWAY. THE COPS WILL FIND THEM.

AND WE STILL HAVE THE OTHER ONE.

MM. SIMON SLUGANSKY. A.K.A. SLUG.

THAT'S THE ONE. ENOUGH TO BUILD A CASE AROUND.

IS IT? I GUESS WE'LL SEE. BUT MATT, LISTEN. ONE MORE THING BEFORE YOU PROCEED.

YOU KNOW THE FIRST THING SLUG'S DEFENSE WILL DO IS TO FILE A MOTION TO REVEAL THE IDENTITY OF YOUR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT.

IF THAT SUCCEEDS...WELL, I JUST WANT YOU TO BE SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT MOVE. YOU CAN STILL BACK OUT.

NO. NO BACKING OUT. IF WE CAN PULL THIS OFF, IT WILL CHANGE EVERYTHING IN THIS CITY. THIS IS MY JOB, SIR. THIS IS THE WHOLE POINT.

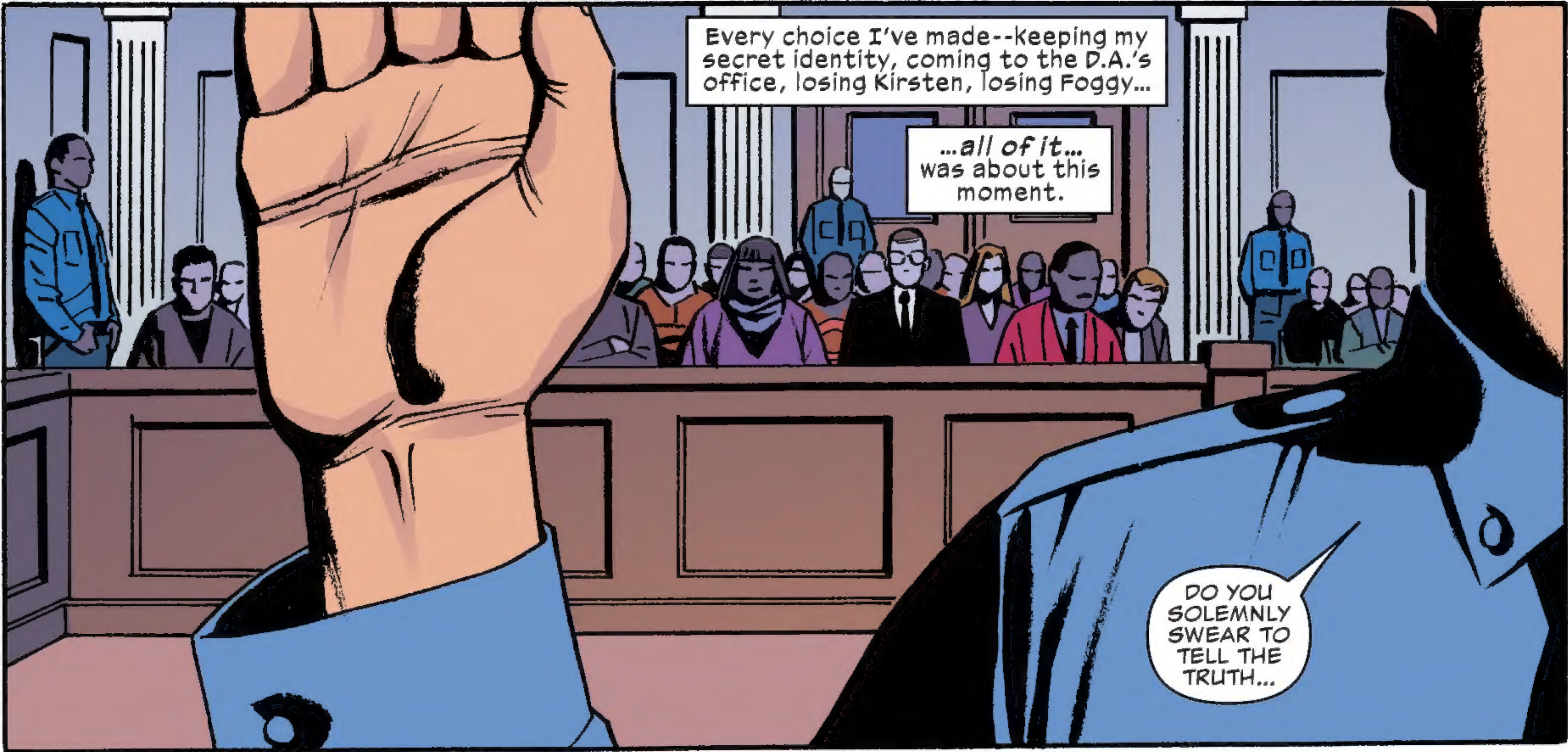
ALL RIGHT. GO WITH GOD, MY SON.



This is it.
This is where
it starts.

The end
of crime in
New York City.

PLEASE
RAISE YOUR RIGHT
HAND.



Every choice I've made--keeping my
secret identity, coming to the D.A.'s
office, losing Kirsten, losing Foggy...

...all of it...
was about this
moment.

DO YOU
SOLEMNLY
SWEAR TO
TELL THE
TRUTH...



If this works, it
was all worth it.

...THE WHOLE
TRUTH...



And if it
doesn't--

...AND
NOTHING BUT
THE TRUTH...



--I lose
everything.

...SO
HELP YOU
GOD?



I DO.

I am
Daredevil.

I am not
afraid.

TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE:

"SUPREME" PART 2



DAREDEVIL #22

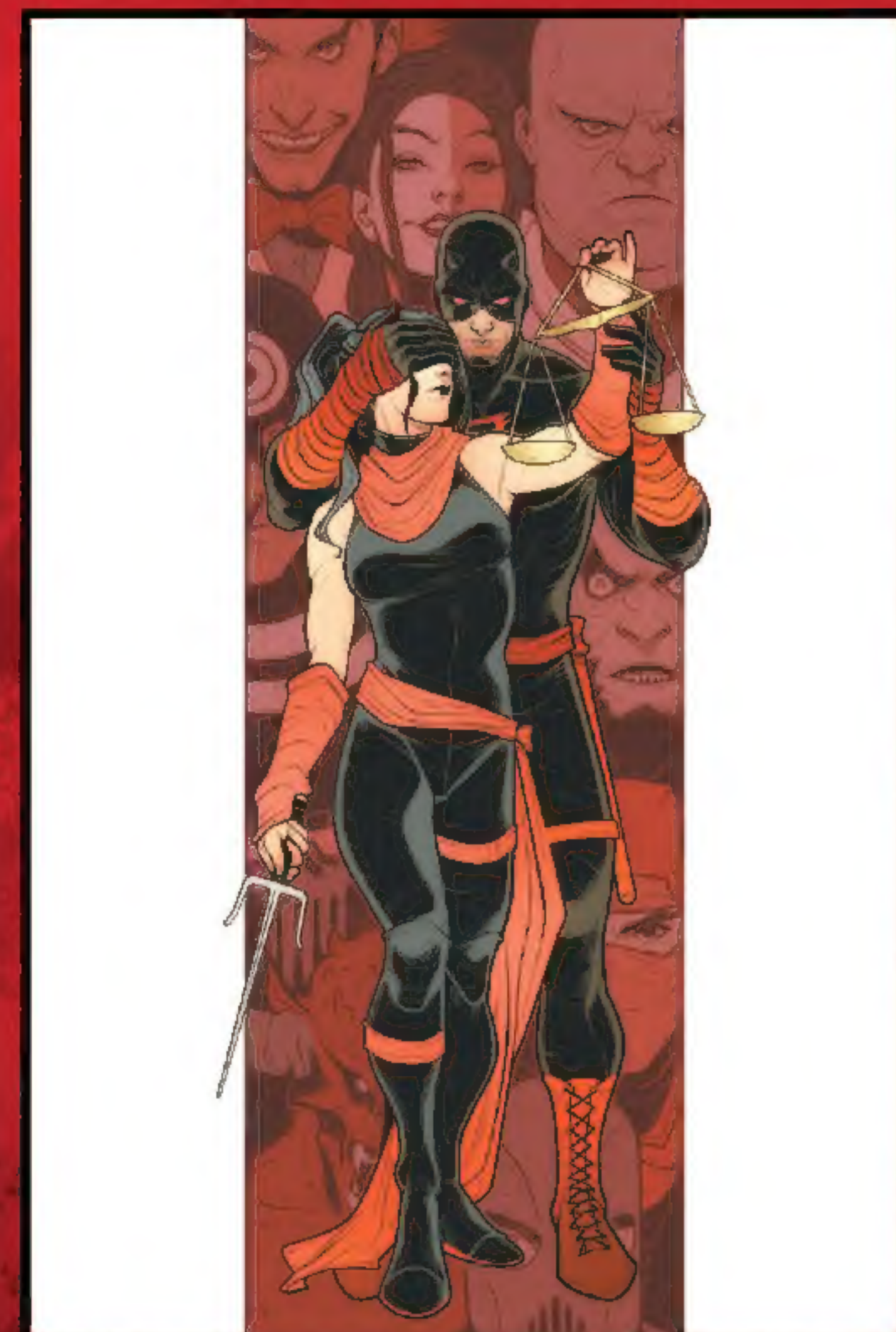
ALSO ON SALE THIS MONTH



BULLSEYE #5 - ON SALE NOW



KINGPIN #5



ELEKTRA #5

